

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CA-01 /076 W
-----095055 191336Z /53

R 190802Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6616
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6915

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, ICRC, ET, SO
SUBJ: POW'S IN ETHIOPIAN CONFLICTS

REF: STATE 297956

1. DURING MEETING WITH ICRC REP EDDI LEEMAAN AND ICRC
LOGISTICS ADVISOR HANS AEBI DEC 16, USAID DIRECTOR RAISED
QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL.

2. RE OGADEN, ICRC REPS VISITED SEVERAL (READ 3 TO 4) POW'S
ON ETHIOPIAN SIDE IN AUGUST. ON OCT 31 ICRC REQUESTED
FROM EPMG A LIST OF POW'S AND THEIR LOCATIONS. NO REPLY HAS
YET BEEN RECEIVED. BASED ON THE REPLY, ICRC WOULD PLAN TO MAKE
VISITS.

3. ON SOMALI SIDE OF OGADEN CONFLICT, ICRC HAS SEEN ABOUT
150 POW'S, ALL OF WHOM ARE BEING HELD IN OGADEN REGION OF
ETHIOPIA BY ELEMENTS OF THE WSLF. THEIR PRESENCE IN OGADEN
UNDER WSLF CONTROL IMPLICATES ICRC REPORTING PROCEDURES.
EPMG WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY REPORT WHICH RECOGNIZES
EVEN ON DE-FACTO BASIS EXISTENCE WSLF. ON OTHER HAND,
THE SOMALIA GOVT WILL NOT TAKE ANY RESPONSIBILITY
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FOR PRISONERS HELD WITHIN OGADEN BY WSLF. WHILE ICRC
CAN THEREFORE NOT MAKE REPORTS TO RESPECTIVE GOVTS,
ICRC DOES PLAN TO MAKE ADDITIONAL VISITS POW CAMPS ON
SOMALI SIDE. IF ICRC CAN VISIT EVEN CIVILIAN REFUGEES
ON SOMALI TERRITORY, IT WOULD OFFICIALLY INVOLVE GSDR
AND THUS OPEN THE DOOR TO OFFICIAL REPORTS ON SUCH
PRESENCE TO EPMG.

4. IN ANY CASE, IN RESPONSE TO COMMENT PARA 1 REFTEL RE U.S. NOT HAVING SEEN ANY ICRC REPORTS ON PRISONERS, ICRC INFORMS US THAT SUCH REPORTS ARE ONLY REPEAT ONLY MADE AVAILABLE TO COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE CONFLICT.

5. RE ERITREA, ICRC REPS IN ETHIOPIA HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED TO DEAL ONLY WITH OGADEN CONFLICT. ICRC ATTEMPTS TO DEAL WITH ERITREAN PROBLEM THROUGH CAIRO AND KHARTOUM AND THROUGH APPARENTLY QUIETLY HELD CONTACTS WITH ERITREA RED CRESCENT REPEAT ERITREAN RED CRESCENT. UTILIZING THESE ARRANGEMENTS, ICRC HAS PROVIDED 7,000 PARCELS TO THE ERITREAN RED CRESCENT, VIA SUDAN, FOR REPORTED 7,000 ETHIOPIAN PRISONERS. PRISONERS REPORTEDLY INCLUDE HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS SUCH AS CAPTAINS AND MAJORS. HOWEVER, SUDAN WILL NOT PERMIT ICRC VISITS ACROSS BORDER TO ERITREA.

6. ON ETHIOPIAN SIDE, ERITREAN CONFLICT, ICRC CAN ONLY OFFER ASSISTANCE UNDER ART. 3 BECAUSE IT IS AN INTERNAL CONFLICT. SUCH OFFERS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY EPMG.

7. RE U.S. ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING ENTREE'S ETC., ICRC HAS RECEIVED EXCELLENT ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. IN LATIN AMERICA AND MID-EAST WITH SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS.
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HOWEVER, IN ETHIOPIA ICRC DOUBTS U.S. COULD BE MAJOR INFLUENCE FOR THEM. LEEMAAN COMMENTED THAT RUSSIAN ASSISTANCE WOULD BE MORE HELPFUL BUT WHILE HE HAS VISITED RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR, "THE AMBASSADOR GAVE ME TEA BUT IT WASN'T VERY SWEET."

9. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON ICRC RELIEF EFFORTS IN OGADEN ON WHICH U.S. IS PROVIDING MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
MATHERON

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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